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| Remarks: FYI The attached 2 letters (English translations and copies of originals) were written by Kuznetsov to a Ukrainian em gre in Canada, Artemenko. The latter made the initial contact with Kuznetsov. | | | |
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODSEXEMPTION 3828
VAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

A. Anatoli (Kuznetsov)

TRANSLATION

25 October 1969

Esteemed friend!

Accept my deep thanks for your letter, which I read several times with great emotion. In the books, which I plan to have published, particular reference is made about the terrible fate of Ukrainians in the USSR. I was born and grew up in Kiev, and my mother is a Ukrainian. Although I became a Russian writer, this does not mean that I forgot my native Ukraine. My mother currently lives in Kiev. She is 65 years of age, and the KGB is now interrogating her because of me. When I think of how difficult it is for her I feel like climbing the walls, but there is nothing I can do.

You write that there are books about famine in the Ukraine. I remember it and write some about it, but if you could send me some material (about the famine), I would be grateful all the way to heaven. I thirst for information, information, as for living water. My mother's mother, my grandmother, baptised me in secret, and gave me the name Anatoli, so I am keeping it, beginning a new, honorable life.

My sincere greetings to you and your dear ones and your friends. I wish you good health.

Your

A. Anatoli

16 November 1969

Highly-esteemed Compatriot and Friend Mr. Artemenko!

I read your testimony, "Believe me", skimmed through the pages of the White Book and I became sad. In what kind of an age are we living? What is most frightening to me is the fact that I knew very little about this. I, who was born and grew up in the Ukraine! No, I knew that famine, I was 4 years old at the time, and my father was one of those "25 thousandites" and used to tell how they shot the people-eaters near Uman - I remembered that for life, and I write about it in my "Babyn Yar", the new text of which will soon be published. And anyway I read your testimony - and see that I knew about 1/1000th about that horror; and about the struggle of the Ukraine against the Communists, I know absolutely nothing. It is frightening that I, "a cultured Soviet individual" - DON'T KNOW.

Now I see that it is the Ukrainians who best understood the essence of Communism. The world doesn't understand - doesn't believe. They say: "exaggeration" And in the Soviet Union - those who understood are no longer there. I don't understand anything: how can it be so? I see one thing: it is very frightening, I am dumfounded...I am 40 years old - and it is necessary for me to begin to learn the true history of my fatherland. Most of all there is currently in the Ukraine - "subversion"; the quiet pressure of the Chornovils against abuses of authority, and even this seems so subversive, so terrible that people perspire from fear: how can this be? To what have they driven the Ukraine! There is silence in all languages and what is more - ^{that} don't think! He thinks that he

thinks - ^{just}as up to this time^I used to think but now I see that I did not begin THERE. It is only here that I begin. How terrible!

I still do not know what I am going to do, in what form, I know only that I will - and in the best way, but wait, first - information. Everything you sent - it is for me like an explosion of a bomb, yes, yes, imagine it! The English live here peacefully-quietly, publish in the Times festive, enthusiastic reports about the achievements of socialism in the USSR. In Frankfurt, the Russians are active - they place great hopes in the Grigorenkos and Yakirs, which are such subversives as is Chornovil. Here is the paradox. Therefore, Chornovil and Grigorenko - true martyrs. But it is all relative, and now I see that only among the Ukrainians in the West - there is the most accurate evaluation of communism and the calling of things by their true name.

Somehow I feel remorseful - but I want to maintain contact with you. I will somehow repay you in time, my dear Mr. Artemenko. If you have extras then send me also the "Technology of Power". And newspapers, never in my life did I see any, and^I know nothing, not-a-thing about the UNRada and other parties.....

You see how ignorant I am. It is frightening to me. I say it is necessary to start from the very beginning. Send me anything which isn't too much trouble to you - whatever you have on hand - be so kind. I will bow my head before you.

Concerning your question about dissident literature (Kuznetsov uses the word zakhalyavna, which means literature which must be hidden) in the USSR, there is some, but very little. There is some being brought out, but so little that about one out of 10,000 gets to see it out of the corner of his eye. There are small circles

where this dissident literature circulates but the masses (the people, "narod") knows nothing, hears nothing, doesn't suspect anything. I am a pessimist. In the Ukraine - a silent night under the bold song, "I do not know another such country where man breathes^{so} freely." Spiritual night. I do not see the dawn... On the contrary, it seems a new winter is coming. Lord, how fortunate I would be to be wrong! O unfortunate Ukraine...

A machine (translator (probably Ukrainian typewriter) - that would be an excessive luxury. I will think about it, maybe one will be found here in London. If not, then I will write, and you can send it to me at my expense, but don't burden yourself right now.

With this I will end. Many, many thanks to you! Be well, I wish you everything good always, and I embrace you.

Your Anatoli